

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 2000 LB 901

this would allow them a 40 percent increase up to \$6,720. OPPD and NPPD have a salary of \$9,600 a year. This would allow them to go to \$13,440. They have not had an increase in their wages in over ten years. I think that is due. If that becomes controversial, well, I'd be glad to discuss it with you or pull it from the bill, but I would hope that's not. It was advanced unanimously by the committee. If you have any questions, I will be glad to try and answer them at this time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHROCK: The committee amendments are the bill, Mr. Speaker, so give my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you. We're debating the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAH: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if Senator Schrock would respond to some questions?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, would you respond?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR QUANDAH: I guess I do have just a couple of questions about towards the end of the committee amendment it does appear that it does authorize some raises in the salaries and the benefits provided to the directors of public power districts. Could you give me a little bit of background on why that's necessary to be included in this particular amendment?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I think the committee felt that it had been over ten years since a raise had been authorized. They're also allowed a per diem of \$50 a day, not to exceed \$2,000 a year, and a lot of meetings are being attended now with the...with the issue of...with a lot of controversial issues out there, and we're having a lot of board members that are using up their \$2,000 per diem. This would allow them to go to \$2,800 a year. Certainly, some board members are more active than others, but their per diem per day would go from \$50 a day to \$70 a day. It's felt like we need to allow them to raise their salaries,